



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
One Credit Union Place, Suite 340  
Harrisburg, PA 1700-2993

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January 17, 2008

**PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN NO. PA300-8-1**

**SUBJECT: LTP EQIP 2008 Obligations**

**Purpose:** To inform of EQIP Procedures. Action by January 25, 2008.

**Action:** All contracts are due in the State Office by January 25, 2008 deadline for initial allocations. Contracts must be in a ready to obligate condition.

**Background:** At the beginning of FY 2008, NRCS in PA announced that many of the EQIP program activity dates would be moved up to accelerate contract approvals and program obligations. This strategy was important to accomplish because it will ultimately allow more time for field staff to focus on contract development and practice implementation. In addition, it gets our EQIP funds locked in and obligated during a time of uncertainty about farm bill programs because of the impending approval of a new farm bill. The signing of a new farm bill could result in unobligated EQIP funds to be determined to not be able to be spent in FY 2008. In fact, funds could be "swept" back to the treasury for use in 2009 and beyond.

The initial team's allocation must be ready for obligation by COB on January 25, 2008 or they will be available for award to another field team. Please contact Barry Frantz if you have special circumstances. Also, we will be working with those of you ready to obligate additional funds starting immediately, to provide more funding.

There have been problems with contract documents sent in with mistakes. Please be sure that these contract packages are reviewed for accuracy before sending them to the State Office to minimize mistakes and oversights. We are adding more people to review these after they leave the field office and we need your cooperation. Packages that come through with no mistakes will be reviewed and approved more quickly.

/s/ William J. Bowers, Acting

CRAIG R. DERICKSON  
State Conservationist

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